

Weekly Letter Roundup

Week Commencing: Monday 19th February 2024.



BRUNE PARK
COMMUNITY SCHOOL



Headteacher Weekly Summary

Headteacher
Kerry Payne

Thank you to all of our parents and carers for all of your support with uniform. We are pleased to report that the vast, vast majority of students are in school demonstrating they are ready to learn in full school uniform. It is important to note that ties, school jumpers and plain black shoes or trainers are expected parts of our uniform.

Recognition of those students meeting and exceeding our expectations has continued to be a focus in school and it has been pleasing to see that nearly 9000 positive points have been awarded this week. Students are recognised for getting it right (in the correct uniform, on time, engaging appropriately), as a star of the lesson and in excellence awards. These are further added to when students are identified as exceeding expectations. In our school, points mean prizes and we are looking forward to sharing with all students what they can 'earn' by achieving positive points.

We have been really pleased to continue to welcome colleagues from KGA to our school week, working closely with them to secure improved outcomes for all students is the ongoing focus of this work. It is always pleasing to hear that our evidence is demonstrating our continued improvement journey, especially in the quality of education being provided at Brune Park.

Contents of this newsletter:

Notices for all year groups:

[Year 7](#)

[Year 10](#)

[Year 11](#)

Notices for all year groups:



Headline sponsor

SCHWALBE

Brune Park is taking part in Big Wheel and Walk!

We know that most of our students walk and cycle to school. We therefore want to start rewarding and celebrating how our students are helping the local environment.

To start we will be taking part in Sustrans Big Wheel and Walk. All we need is students from the 11th March - 22nd March to walk and cycle to school as much as they possibly can! It could be that they are still dropped off at school but 10 mins away so they have to walk a little bit!

Then all students need to do is tell their tutor how they got to school who will record it on a google form. This data will then be put on the Sustrans website so we can see at Brune Park how we are doing compared to other schools across the country!

There is also a competition for students to do either on their own or in small groups. This is on Google classroom for students to enter. All they need to do is come up with a plan to reduce air pollution.

We take part in lots of Sustrans events as cycling and walking to school to help our environment is an important part of students personal development and their future!



SILVER: VERY GOOD TRAVEL PLAN 2023

Bike Doctors Maintenance Sessions

On Thursday 22nd February 6 students took part in a cycle maintenance session with our link from Sustrans John Clode. During the session students learnt the names of different screws and bolts and where they were, what the correct way was to pump up their tires, how to fix a puncture and how to look after their breaks.

The students were fantastic and worked alongside John and showed great teamwork to each other.

John has very kindly offered to run some more sessions in the following weeks. If your child uses their bike to get to school and is in need of some fixing please complete the form below. We may not be able to offer it to everyone depending on numbers but will try our best.

<https://forms.gle/kUHdQivqnpVziqV8>



Celebration Friday:

Happy Celebration Friday!

Students from Year 7 and 8 were nominated this week to meet with Miss Payne for all being exceptionally hard working individuals. Well done everyone.



Year 7 & 8 career assembly

On Friday 23rd Feb students in year 7 and 8 took part in their first Alumni assembly. We welcomed the fantastic Elaine Rudge who has such as interesting career paths from working in science labs on enzymes, to plastic to paracetamol!

Elaine is a an ex Brune Park student and only went to university once they were in full time work so that they could work and study at the same time.

This is an option that is open to all current students and if students would like more information the unifrog website is the best place for information.



Internal Truancy

We are aware that a small number of students are refusing to attend lessons and choose to wander the school site. Internal truancy is a form of persistent defiance where pupils are habitually absent from their lessons without good reason. This is often combined with refusal to follow instructions from staff.

It's important not to underestimate the impact of internal truancy, both on students' immediate education and their long-term development. Obviously, missing lessons causes disengagement with learning and limits academic achievement. But beyond this, there are clear associations between truancy and a student's future success. It is also important to note the wider impacts on the safe running of the school, as staff and resources have to be redeployed to support students back into their lessons.

In order to support students, from 26th February, any student out of a lesson without a legitimate reason will be sanctioned. These students will be placed in an after-school restorative session that day, from 3.10pm - 4.10pm, to support them in how to be successful and make up for lost learning. Further truanting, and defiance throughout the same day will result in the student being placed in the Iroom and an after-school restorative session that day, from 3.10pm - 4.10pm.

We know that these changes will not affect the vast majority of our students, but we wanted you to be aware of these changes and thank you for your continued support

Students feeling unwell at school

We appreciate that there will be times when pupils feel unwell and they may want to go home. We have really clear procedures for how we support our pupils who may be feeling unwell. We ask that pupils seek support from staff in the welfare room. Ideally pupils should utilise time between lessons and break times to access the welfare room where possible.

If a pupil is unable to complete their lesson they need to seek permission from their teacher to leave the classroom and come to the welfare room. They should obtain an out of lesson pass or note from the teacher and will not be seen in the welfare room without a pass.

If a pupil feels that they need to go home they should come to welfare and explain their symptoms to the member of staff there. Pupils are not permitted to use their phones during the school day and therefore should not be texting/phoning parents to go home. Staff in the welfare room will assess the pupils symptoms and provide support where possible to stay in school. On occasions where this is not possible a phone call home will be made to seek permission for the child to come home or ask that they be collected. This phone call must be made to a parent/guardian or other emergency contact listed on Arbor from a school phone.

Social Media

Before half term we communicated with you a developing situation regarding a Snapchat group containing sexually inappropriate content shared amongst our students and wider community. We have been working in partnership with the Police and supporting them with their investigation. This is obviously a reactive response to a terrible situation. We want to continue to be proactive in our educative approach to online safety, and continue to work in partnership with you.

We are committed to providing a safe and supportive environment where all pupils can thrive, both online and offline. We believe that by empowering pupils with greater awareness, we can ensure they navigate the digital world with confidence and maintain positive mental health.

Please use the links below to support your conversations and understand how to apply parental controls on your child's devices

Please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's Tutor, Year Office or a member of the school's Safeguarding Team if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your support.
The Safeguarding Team

Resources:

<https://brunepark.gfmat.org/school-life/safeguarding/>

General Advice:

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/social-media-guides>

Snapchat:

<https://parents.snapchat.com/en-GB/parental-controls>

TikTok:

<https://newsroom.tiktok.com/en-us/new-features-for-teens-and-families-on-tiktok-us>

Whatsapp:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/2023-01-12-is-whatsapp-safe-for-my-child/>

MARCH CHALLENGE!!

Friday 1st - Thursday 28th March 2024

Every student that gets 100% attendance from Friday 1st March - Thursday 28th March 2024 will receive a choice of:

- A sweet treat (Cake/Doughnut) or
- A fast pass for the lunch queue



**BE A
BRUNE PARK**

**GFM
ATTENDANCE**

HERE
EVERY DAY
READY
ON TIME

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about GROUP CHATS

Occurring through messaging apps, on social media and in online games, group chats are among the most popular ways that young people engage with their peers online. Involving, by definition, three or more individuals, these groups allow users to send messages, images and videos to everyone in one place. While they are useful for helping friends, people with shared interests or members of a club to communicate and coordinate activities, they can also leave young people feeling excluded and bullied – as well as providing opportunities for inappropriate content to be shared and viewed.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

BULLYING

Unkind comments or images which are purposely aimed at an individual can be shared freely in a group chat – allowing and often encouraging others to join in the bullying behaviour. If this content is shared in a group of their peers (especially a larger group), it serves to amplify the hurt, embarrassment, anxiety and isolation that the victim feels.

EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

This common issue with group chats can happen in several ways: starting a new group, for instance, but deliberately excluding a certain child. Likewise, the chat may take place on an app which one child doesn't have access to, meaning they can't be involved. A child can also feel isolated when a group chat is used to discuss or share images from an event that everyone else but them attended.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some discussions in group chats may include inappropriate words, swearing and unsuitable images or videos. These could be viewed by your child if they are part of that group, whether they actively engage in it or not. Some chat apps have a disappearing message function, so your child may be unable to report something they've seen because it can only be viewed once or for a short time.

SHARING GROUP CONTENT

It's important to remember that – while the content of the chat is private between those in the group – individual users can easily share a message, photo or video with others outside of the group or screenshot what's been posted. The risk of something your child intended as private becoming public (and potentially going viral) is higher if there are people they don't know well in the group.

UNKNOWN MEMBERS

Within larger group chats, it's more likely your child will be communicating with people they don't really know. These strangers may be friends of the host, but not necessarily friendly toward your child. It's wise for young people not to share personal details and stay aware that they have no control over the messages and images they share after they've put them online.

NOTIFICATIONS AND FOMO

A drawback of large group chats is the sheer number of notifications. Every time someone in the group messages, your child's device will be 'pinged' with an alert; potentially, this could mean hundreds of notifications a day. Not only is this highly distracting, but young people's fear of missing out on the latest conversation results in increased screen time as they try to keep up with the chat.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS

Group chats are often an arena for young people to gain social status. This could cause them to do or say things on impulse, which could upset others in the group. Encourage your child to consider how other people might feel if they engaged in this behaviour. If your child does upset a member of their group chat, support them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.

GIVE SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT

Remind your child that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded in a group chat, instead of responding to the person who's upset them. Validate their hurt feelings and help to put them back in control by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. On a related note, you could also empower your child to speak up if they're in a chat where others are being picked on.

BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE

If your child is in a chat where inappropriate content is being shared, advise them to block the users sending the material, report them to the host app or platform and exit the group. If any of this content could be putting a minor at risk, contact the police. Emphasise to your child that it's OK for them to simply leave any group chat that they don't feel comfortable being a part of.

PRACTISE SAFE SHARING

In any online communication, it's vital for young people to be aware of what they're sharing and who might potentially see it. Discuss the importance of not revealing identifiable details like their address, their school or photos that they wouldn't like to be seen widely. Remind them that once something is shared in a group, they lose control of where it may end up and how it might be used.

AVOID INVITING STRANGERS

Sadly, many individuals online hide their true identity to gain a child's trust – for example, to gather information on them, to exchange inappropriate content or to coax them into doing things they aren't comfortable with. Ensure your child understands why they shouldn't add people they don't know to a group chat – and, especially, to never accept a group chat invitation from a stranger.

SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Having a phone or tablet bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be a massive irritation and distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to your child that they can still be part of the group chat, but that it would be healthier for them to turn off or mute the notifications and catch up with the conversation at a time which better suits them.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



NOS
National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

Sources: <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2018/jul/12/online-safety-consultant-educator-researcher>, <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/online-safety-consultant-educator-researcher>

Year 10:

Work experience

Year 10 have officially had their work experience launched this week. Work experience is from June 10th - June 14th 2024.

This year we are doing our work experience through Unifrog. All students should now have a login to Unifrog in their school email accounts.

Over half term we need students to start sending emails or talking to possible places they might want to do work experience. We know for many students they will not know what they want to do and they can use Unifrog to help them get some ideas.

On the Year 10 Cole Google classroom students have access to a video that shows they how to use Unifrog and the slides from the assembly that contain a writing frame on how to email employers (The link to the assembly can also be found here: [Year 10 Work Experience](#)).

If a student cannot find a placement in school we will have a plan where students will not be sat in a classroom but will be listening to past students and what career path they have taken and completing some volunteer work around the local area and school.

Useful links

<https://www.unifrog.org/>

<https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/>

If you have any questions please contact the career team at careers@brunepark.gfmat.org

Year 11:

Post 16 Choices

We have over 200 of our year 11 students who have already secured a place with one of our local colleges. For those who have not yet put in an application it is not too late to apply. All colleges still have their applications open and there are lots of new apprenticeship opportunities in the area available.

Useful links:

<https://www.fareham.ac.uk/>

<https://www.stvincent.ac.uk/>

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship> - Where to apply for apprenticeships

BAE have also recently announced some new apprenticeships these can be found here:

<https://www.baesystems.com/en/careers/careers-in-the-uk/apprenticeships>

GCSE Drama:

On Thursday 8th February, 13 GCSE Drama students went to Chichester Festival Theatre to watch 2:22 A Ghost Story as part of their preparation for their written GCSE examination. The performance was amazing, with lots of jumpscare and a crazy plot twist. The students were fantastically well behaved and received great comments from members of the public and theatre staff.



Year II:

You will be aware that Pre-Public exams (PPEs) begin on the **1st March 2024** for Year II pupils and shortly will receive a copy of your youngsters' individual PPE timetable showing when they are expected to be in pre-exam guidance sessions and examinations. We have spoken many times with pupils about how important these exams are, so we hope they have been working hard at home in preparation. Pupils should be continuing to attend period 6 sessions after school regularly and revising at home. A range of revision material and exam preparation tasks can be found on the Google Classroom each week and a link to the revision resources order form can be found [here](#). All of the revision resources listed in the order form can also be ordered via Scopay. Pupils also have access to the Tassomai app which is an excellent resource.

In readiness for the exams, pupils will need to come prepared with the following:

- A copy of their PPE timetable
- 2x black pens, 2x pencils, a rubber, ruler and a highlighter in a **clear** pencil case
- A clear water bottle with the labelling removed
- A calculator and Maths kit for Maths, Science, Geography and any other exam paper where this equipment is required
- Pupils will need to know and remember their candidate number in order to find their seat in the exam hall
- Pupils are required to be in **full** school uniform

Please encourage pupils to bring enough lunch and snacks to keep their energy levels up throughout the day, this is so important for concentration levels and their ability to 'keep going' in the afternoon exams. Please encourage your youngsters to have a good sleep pattern during the PPEs, when this is even more important than usual - we know that tiredness can greatly impact examination performance.

Pupils will need to arrive at school **earlier than normal, every morning throughout the PPE (mock) window, starting on the 1st March**. Pupils need to be at the Dance Studio for **8.35 am** to attend the Pre-Exam Guidance session and then line up on the tennis courts at 8.50 am at the latest. **Morning exam papers will start promptly at 9am**. For afternoon papers, pupils need to be in the PEG session for **13.05 pm** and then line up on the Tennis Courts by **1.20 pm**. **Afternoon exam papers will start promptly at 1.30 pm**. An overview of the PPE program can be found [here](#).

Please remind pupils that their mobile phones must be switched off and in their bags before they line up for an examination. Mobile phones are not permitted in the exam venues. Pupils will be allowed to leave the school site straight after the completion of afternoon papers. Finish times vary each day, so please consult your child's exam timetable.

We wish Year II all the very best of luck for the PPEs, and thank you once again for all your support.



Prom Event 2024



This is an opportunity for you to borrow a dress, suit, shoes and accessories for your prom at no cost!! All we ask is that you return items clean, after use.

The Gosport Community Hub, Military Road,
PO12 3BU

Saturday February 24th, 12pm to 4pm.



GOSPORT
COMMUNITY HUB

Good Grub Club:

Please see our poster for our Easter Good Grub Club. If your interested please follow this [link](#) to show your interest.



**GOSPORT
COMMUNITY HUB**



Good Grub Club

**Come along to our Good Grub
Club where you can enjoy
cooking Easter treats and Easter
activities with your family .**

Please click on the link below to show interest.

<https://forms.gle/28gzYodh4nyH52Qa7>

**Thursday 4th April 2024
11am till 1.30pm**

For more info contact:

**gosportcommunityhub@gfmat.org Brune Park
Community School, Military Road, Gosport,
PO12 3BU**



Talking Teens parent programme:

If you are interested in attending The Talking Teens Programme please click on this [link](#) to show your interest.



GOSPORT COMMUNITY HUB

Talking Teens

The four-week course will commence on Thursday 22nd April 2024, 5.30pm - 7.30pm. The venue will be the Gosport Community Hub on the Brune Park Site.

Talking Teens will enable adults to understand the feelings of teenagers regarding their Behaviours, Emotions, Maintaining and improving the relationships the teen has.

The programme is conducted over four sessions, and will including information such as:

- Exploring the importance of parents towards teenagers.
- Developing the parents' understanding of teenage development and the influence of the brain development on behaviour.
 - Developing the parents' understanding of the importance of listening, verbal and non-verbal communication.
 - Promoting a positive approach to setting boundaries and problem solving.
 - Providing an opportunity to parents to share their experience with other parents.



There are many different outcomes for the parents and children, these outcomes are:

- Improving relationships between the parents and their teenagers.
- Reducing conflict and stress within the family.
- Increased confidence for both child and parents about talking about their problems.
- Further understanding of teenagers' needs and their development.

Please click the link below to submit your interest:

<https://forms.gle/Wmijuz64PY74dJMN6>

Or email gosportcommunityhub@gfmat.org

Please contact gosportcommunityhub@gfmat.org with any questions you may have or to book a 1:1 meeting prior to the course start date.

Year 7:

If you are interested in attending the Family Links Nurturing Programme to support your child please click on this [link](#) to show your interest.



GOSPORT COMMUNITY HUB

Family Links Nurturing Programme

This 10-week course will commence on Monday 22nd April 2024, 9.30am to 11.30am (term time only). The venue will be the Gosport Community Hub on the Brune Park School site.

The Nurturing Programme

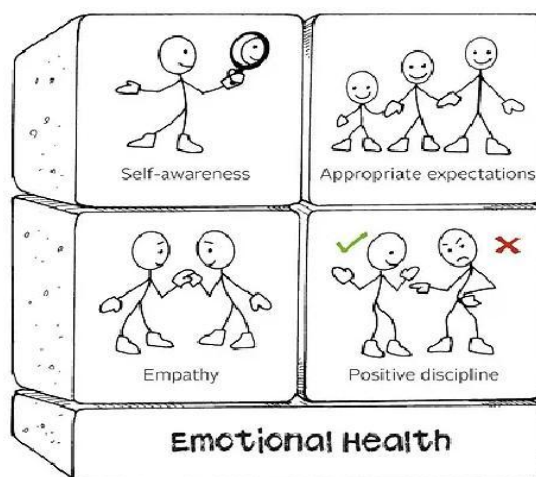
All our work is underpinned by the Nurturing Programme which provides adults and children with the understanding, skills and ability to lead emotionally healthy lives, build resilience, empathy, self-esteem and support positive relationships.

The American child psychologist Dr Stephen J. Bavolek developed The Nurturing Programme based on his research into family interactions where he identified four destructive parental behaviour patterns.

The Nurturing Programme was developed to address these, and uses the following four constructs as building blocks of emotionally healthy relationships:

- Self-awareness
- Appropriate expectations
- Empathy
- Positive discipline

Although the four constructs were originally developed within the context of parenting, they apply to all areas of our work.



Please click the link below to submit your interest:

<https://forms.gle/S8hciG7yiFpvBTnv7>

Or email gosportcommunityhub@gfmat.org